

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE SEVERE WEATHER EVENT
OF DECEMBER 2022**

AGENCY INTEREST NO. 230462

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the authority granted to me by Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2001 *et seq.*, and particularly La. R.S. 30:2033 and 2011(D)(6), I hereby make the following findings, declaration and order:

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION

1. On the 13th day of December, 2022, a severe weather event (hereinafter “the **EVENT**”), occurred when a line of storms moved across Louisiana bringing with it heavy rainfall, high winds, and tornadic activity, thereby adversely impacting several parishes of the state. The **EVENT** resulted in power outages, downed trees and power lines, debris, and damage to numerous structures with areas in Caddo, Union, Rapides, Madison, East Carroll, Franklin, St. Bernard, St. Charles, Iberia, Jefferson and Orleans parishes being significantly affected.
2. By State of Louisiana Proclamation No. **183 JBE 2022**, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, declared on December 13, 2022, that a state of emergency exists statewide as a result of the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State of Louisiana.
3. The following parishes shall constitute the specific areas covered by this Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order (hereinafter “Order”): Caddo, Union, Rapides, Madison, East Carroll, Franklin, St. Bernard, St. Charles, Iberia, Jefferson and Orleans Parish. These areas are herein referred to as the “Emergency Areas.”
4. I find that the **EVENT** has created or will create conditions that require immediate action to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout the Emergency Areas.

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WHEREFORE, I hereby declare that an emergency exists, and that the following measures are necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout the Emergency Areas.

ORDER

Within the Emergency Areas:

§ 1. Solid Waste Management

- a. State of Louisiana “Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management,” (the Debris Management Plan)

When handling and managing wastes generated because of the **EVENT**, owners and operators of solid waste management facilities and local governments shall adhere to the Debris Management Plan (See Appendix B), except where the Debris Management Plan may be in conflict with the provisions of this Order, in which case the provisions of this Order shall prevail. The Debris Management Plan contains provisions and instructions for handling various types of waste material and for locating and receiving authorization for Emergency Debris Sites. A copy of the Debris Management Plan can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link,

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

- b. Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities

- i. Owners and operators of solid waste management facilities permitted by the Department before the **EVENT** are authorized to make all necessary repairs to restore essential services and the functionality of storm water management and leachate collection systems damaged by the **EVENT**, without prior notice to the Department. Within thirty (30) days of commencing the work of such repair or replacement, however, the permittee shall notify the Department in writing, describing the nature of the work, giving its location, and providing the name, address, and telephone number of the representative of the permittee to contact concerning the work.

- ii. Permitted facilities within or outside of the Emergency Area, which accept **EVENT**-generated debris in accordance with the terms of this Order, may accept **EVENT**-generated debris for disposal or storage without the need to first modify existing permits, as follows:

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(1). Prior notification is submitted to the Department describing any proposed deviations from permit conditions;

(2). Any proposed deviations from permit limits must be within the bounds of engineering assumptions used in the design of the facility, and conducted in accordance with the Debris Management Plan; and

(3) Written approval by the Department (including electronic mail) of the proposed deviations is received.

iii. Operators of permitted facilities may request extended hours of operation and increased solid waste acceptance rates to facilitate recovery and clean-up efforts. The Department may approve such requests for the duration of the Order without the need for a permit modification.

iv. Operators of permitted facilities approved for permit deviations under this Order may be required to submit application for modifications of their existing permits to address any long-term impacts of accepting **EVENT**-generated debris on operations and closure that are not addressed in existing permits if it is determined long term impacts will result from these activities. Long-term impacts are those that will extend past the expiration date of this Order. The requests for modification shall be submitted no later than six (6) months after the date the Governor declared the emergency, unless otherwise extended by the Department. No permit fee will be required for any modifications necessitated solely by the clean-up activities resulting from the **EVENT**. The Department may, for good cause shown, issue a temporary authorization pursuant to LAC 33:VII.509.B.1.a for activities that are addressed in a permit modification request as provided for in this subsection, to authorize operations after expiration of this Order, pending a decision on the modification request.

v. White goods (e.g., air conditioners, stoves, range tops, refrigerators and freezers from which food has been removed) shall be stored in an area separate from other solid wastes and in a manner that prevents vector and odor problems. No white goods may be stored in or on any permitted landfill cells that have not undergone final closure and have not received written authorization from the LDEQ specifically allowing storage in that area. All white goods shall be removed from the storage facility or staging area and sent offsite for recycling, or recycled onsite, within ninety (90) days of initial receipt at the site.

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c. Emergency Debris Sites

i. Upon the declaration of an emergency by LDEQ and the issuance of this Order, local governments and state agencies may “activate” a pre-approved emergency debris site. Upon activation, the governmental body shall notify LDEQ Headquarters via the debris hotline (225-364-7901) that the site is being activated. This verbal notification shall occur as soon as practicable depending on communication capability. If LDEQ Headquarters does not have communication capability, please call one of LDEQ’s regional offices listed in Appendix B.

Written notification (Written Notification of the Activation of Pre Approved Emergency Site) shall be sent to the LDEQ Regional Manager and the LDEQ Headquarters within five (5) days of verbally activating the site, or as soon as mail delivery is possible. A copy of the form is contained in the Debris Management Plan or can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

LDEQ Headquarters address is as follows: Waste Permits Division, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 or fax (225) 325-8236 or email deqdebrisrequest@la.gov.

ii. New temporary emergency debris sites may be considered in accordance with procedures contained in the Debris Management Plan. Authorizations may be requested by providing a notice to the Department on approved forms (Emergency Debris Site Request Form). The request forms can be obtained via LDEQ’s website at the following link:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

New temporary emergency debris sites can be requested as follows:

- (1). Emailing a completed request form to deqdebrisrequest@la.gov;
- (2). Faxing a completed request form to (225) 325-8236, or
- (3). If a request form is not immediately available, the local government can call the emergency debris hotline at (225) 364-7901, and provide the information over the phone to receive verbal approval to stage. The verbal request shall be followed up with a written request as soon as possible after mail delivery is available but no later than 21 days after verbal approval is given.

iii. All temporary and activated pre-approved emergency debris sites accepting vegetative debris shall submit completed weekly debris management report

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(WDMR) forms to the Department each week, no later than Sunday, during operations until the debris site is completely closed or deactivated and the final report has been submitted in accordance with the Debris Management Plan. A copy of the WDMR form is contained in the Debris Management Plan or can be obtained via LDEQ's website at the following link,

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

d. Construction and demolition debris generated from residential structures of four units or less that are subject to a government-ordered demolition shall be disposed of in accordance with the Debris Management Plan except Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) shall be disposed of in a Type I/II landfill. A request by a landfill owner or operator for authorization to accept such RACM must include a certification that the owner or operator will manage the RACM in accordance with the landfill's QA/QC plan and LDEQ requirements. The Department will provide a written response to the request for authorization to accept solid waste and asbestos containing waste material in a Type I or II landfill.

e. Waste Tires

In accordance with the Debris Management Plan, all tires removed from vehicles within the affected areas that are salvaged and/or scrapped because of damage resulting from the **EVENT** shall be tracked and are ineligible for payment from the Waste Management Tire Fund (WTMF). All tires that are collected in the affected areas through **EVENT**-related debris collection activities and deposited at parish collection centers, if established, will be ineligible for payment of the WTMF subsidy, but are to be treated as debris under existing debris removal programs.

i. Tires must be classified for either recycling under existing approved beneficial uses, or for resale. Any person who claims for resale any tires from salvaged or scrapped vehicles in the affected area shall report to the Department the number of such tires classified for resale, and their destination, within fifteen (15) days.

ii. All tires that are removed from vehicles in the affected area that are destined for salvage because of damage resulting from the **EVENT** must be collected, transported, and either recycled or disposed of with an accompanying manifest that lists the tires as being ineligible for the WTMF. If the tires are deemed "used tires" for resale, such a declaration must be reported to the Department by the person responsible for removal of the tires from the vehicle being scrapped and/or salvaged. The report must

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contain the VIN number of the vehicle being scrapped and/or salvaged, the number of tires being removed, the number being classified for resale, and the number classified for recycling and/or disposal.

iii. Eligibility of tires for the WTMF subsidy shall be governed by the most current version of this Order.

§ 2. Open Burning

The Department will consider, on an individual basis, requests for approval for open burning, by persons other than local governments or their agents, of **EVENT**-generated trees, leaves, vines, twigs, branches, grass, and other vegetative debris. Any such burning approved by the Department must be conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Debris Management Plan and LAC 33:III.1109.D.6. Local governments and their agents shall follow the provisions of the Debris Management Plan.

§ 3. Records Management

Copies of LDEQ documents are usually available online in LDEQ's Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). The EDMS is available at <http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov>.

Additional documents may be available by placing a Public Records Request using the online form at <http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/prr> or the printable paper form available at <http://deg.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>. There is no charge to replace copies of documents destroyed by **EVENT**. Please contact Records Management with any questions at (225) 219-3171 or degrerecords@la.gov.

§ 4. General Conditions

a. This Order does not convey any property rights or any rights or privileges other than those specified in this Order.

b. This Order only serves as relief for the duration of this Order from the regulatory and proprietary requirements of the Department, and does not provide relief from the requirements of other federal, state, and local agencies. This Order therefore does not negate the need for the property owner or facility operator to obtain any other required permits or authorizations, nor from the need to comply with all the requirements of those agencies.

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§ 5. General Limitations

The Department issues this Order solely to address the emergency created by the **EVENT**. This Order shall not be construed to authorize any activity within the jurisdiction of the Department except in accordance with the express terms of this Order. Under no circumstances shall anything contained in this Order be construed to authorize the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of any type of unauthorized or illegal structure, habitable or otherwise.

§ 6. Other Authorizations Required

Nothing in this Order shall eliminate the necessity for obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits or other authorizations that may be required.

§ 7. Completion of Authorized Activities

All activities authorized under this Order must be commenced before the expiration of this Order unless otherwise provided in an authorization or permit. The deadline for commencement under any authorization or permit issued under this Order may be extended on a showing that contractors or supplies are not available to commence the work, or if additional time is needed to obtain any required authorization from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other local, state, or federal agencies.

§ 8. Amendments

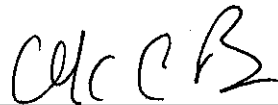
This Order may be amended as required to abate the emergency.

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§ 9. Expiration Date

This Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon execution by the Secretary of the Department, and shall expire at midnight on the sixtieth day after the date of execution set forth below, unless modified or extended by further order.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 15th day of December 2022, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Carr Brown', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown
Secretary

APPENDIX A

LDEQ Regional Office Contact Information

Acadiana Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager: Rhonda McCormick 111 New Center Drive Lafayette, LA 70508 phone: (337) 262-5584 fax: (337) 262-5593 email: aroadmin@la.gov	Acadia, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Lafayette, LaSalle, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion
Capital Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager April Wallace PO. Box 4312 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312 phone: (225) 219-3600 fax: (225) 219-3695 email: croadmin@la.gov	Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, St. Helena, St. James, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Northeast Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager: Casey Head 508 Downing Pines Road West Monroe, LA 71292-0442 phone: (318) 362-5439 fax: (318) 362-5448 email: neroadmin@la.gov	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, Winn
Northwest Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager: Mark Juneau 1525 Fairfield, Room 520 Shreveport, LA 71101-4388 phone: (318) 676-7227 fax: (318) 676-7573 email: nwroadmin@la.gov	Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster
Southeast Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager: Jeffery Leonick 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420 New Orleans, LA 70123-5230 phone: (504) 736-7701 fax: (504) 736-7702 email: seroadmin@la.gov	Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa Terrebonne, Washington
Southwest Regional Office	Parishes Served
Regional Manager: Gubancsik 1301 Gadwall Street Lake Charles, LA 70615 phone: (337) 491-2667 fax: (337) 491-2682 email: swroadmin@la.gov	Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Vernon

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APPENDIX B

State of Louisiana

“Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management,” (the Debris Management Plan)

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.